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Economic Review

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Economic Review

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Russia International Affairs

*Foreign Trade Statistics for First Half of 1995 Reviewed

954E1249A Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Jul 95 p 3

[Article by Vadim Bardin and Konstantin Levin: "Foreign Trade Realities: a Currency Corridor and Entry into the WTO"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The agenda of yesterday's meeting of the collegium of the MVES [Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations] was quite routine: the results of the first half of 1995. Nevertheless, interest in the foreign trade statistics has increased substantially. To a significant extent, the foreign trade consequences of the introduction of the new exchange rate-policy model are precisely what will have a decisive impact on the currency corridor's fate after the first of October. The statistics have also provided material for determining Russia's position during the practical procedure begun in mid-July for Russia to join the VTO [World Trade Organization —WTO].**

The Consequences of Liberalization

Right from the beginning of 1995, Russian exporting, including the exporting of oil and petroleum products, had been decisively liberalized. Strictly speaking, oil exporting may be considered to have been actually liberalized only as of July, when a government decree legalized the ceding of rights to access the cross-country oil and petroleum-product pipelines. Nevertheless, the main aspect of the review of the foreign trade results of 1995's first half is precisely an assessment of the consequences of liberalization.

The statistics show that Russian exporters were lucky in one thing at least. In the exporters' favor were the price market conditions for a number of raw material commodities, which, just as before, make up the lion's share of exporting (energy resources make up 44 percent of the total value of exports), as well as ferrous and nonferrous metals. At the least, Russian export prices for oil, copper, nickel and aluminum have risen substantially. Copper is the price-increase record-holder. The same trend, but in a somewhat more smoothed-out form, is also showing up in the exporting of ferrous metals.

Basic Commodity Exporting in First Half of 1995

Commodity	Value in Millions of Dollars	1995 as a Percentage Compared to 1994	Average Price in Dollars per Metric Ton (With Currency Exporting)	
			1995	1994
Crude Oil	6,258.7	122.7	114.8	99.0
Petroleum Products	1,939.1	100.9	101.3	89.8
Natural Gas	6,625.1	111.9	77.6*	72.7*
Ferrous Metals	2,715.6	113.0		
Rough Diamonds	1,022.1	103.7		
Unrefined Aluminum	1,430.4	138.7	1,451.2	925.3
Unrefined Nickel	514.5	224.7	8,481.2	5,186.3
Copper	457.0	209.7	2,447.9	1,731.9
Fertilizers	836.8	148.7	107.4	86.1
Bituminous Coal	404.4	120.9	34.2	34.9
Coke	27.6	66.8	54.7	58.6
Iron Ores and Concentrates	129.1	103.6	18.2	20.7
Fresh-Frozen Fish	486.2	73.7	828.8	983.1
Round Timber	457.1	132.0	67.2	52.8

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			Average Price in Dollars per Metric Ton (With Currency Exporting)	
Sawn Timber	284.0	107.0	150	105.9
Pulp	439	372.4	698	282.9
Newsprint	242.2	313.6	495.2	254/0
Machines, Equipment and Means of Transport	1,756.4	82.2		
Other	9,336.8			
Total	35,362.1	124.2		

* — U.S. Dollars per Cubic Meter

The upward surge in prices may be explained not only by the favorable foreign market conditions, but also by the Russian exporters' increased experience, which, incidentally, is the best argument against the possible restoration of administrative export-control levers. On the other hand, the Russian currency market's conditions, which pushed the exporters toward returning hard currency, should not be discounted. The currency and, first of all, price control of exporting within the framework of the registration of contracts for the exporting of basic types of raw materials played its own role. It will be regretted that this control measure has actually been prohibited in the Law on State Regulation of Foreign Trade Activities, which has again been sent to the president for signing.

In importing, as before, the deliveries of foodstuffs have grown strikingly. The record-holder is sunflower oil, the importing of which, in value terms, increased by a factor of 4. The new tariff will likely smooth this trend out somewhat.

Basic Commodity Importing in First Half of 1995

Item	Value in Millions of Dollars	1995 as a Percentage Compared to 1994	Average Price in Dollars per Metric Ton	
			1995	1994
Fresh-Frozen Meat	542.2	153.0	1,412.4	1,168.9
Poultry	267.4	106.4	828.6	1,146.2
Butter	250.3	186.2	1,772.7	1,283.1
Citrus Fruits	163.5	75.9	547.6	609.7
Coffee	62.7	127.1	4,944.6	3,563.1
Tea	162.0	122.5		
Cereals	180.9	55.2		
Sunflower Oil	121.9	347.5	956.8	924.7
Sugar (Including Raw Sugar)	474.8	139.8	408.5	318.1
Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	453.0	102.7		
Cigarettes	91.2	65.2		
Medicines	481.8	86.5		
Clothing	319.7	61.5		

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			Average Price in Dollars per Metric Ton	
Leather Footwear	103.3	49.0		
Iron, Steel and Rolled Metal	300.9	85.3		
Steel Piping	289.1	82.2	529.9	546.2
Machines and Equipment	7,466.2	136.7		
Total	21,059.2	114.8		

On the whole, in comparison with 1994's first half, exporting has increased by a fourth (it is true that the exporting of machines and equipment declined again by 18 percent), while importing has increased by almost 15 percent. Of course, this is good, however, there are some negative points. It is true that the discussion is no longer so much about 1995's first half as it is about its third quarter. The essence of our misgivings consists of the following. Since 1992, the foreign trade data of the Goskomstat [State Committee for Statistics], the GTK [State Customs Committee] and the TsB [Central Bank] have been chronically in disagreement. But whereas, previously, purely scientific interest basically incited the search for truth, now, what is dependent precisely on the assessment of the situation in exporting, importing and the balance of payments is the exchange-rate policy and, here, the temptation is great to report that the movement toward a rigidly fixed exchange rate may be accelerated. And this, in turn, opens up new possibilities for strengthening the state's role in the economy.

On to Geneva!

One of the main results of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations' activities in 1995's first half was the transfer into the practical plane of the procedure for Russia's entry into the WTO. In essence, it is the Russian exporters' hope that, if their own state cannot protect them (the system of export credit extension and insurance is still just being worked out), then the WTO will be able to do so. This hope is well founded, since joining the WTO, at the least, insures the Russian exporters against discrimination — in particular, in the area of anti-dumping proceedings — while, for the time being, even the corresponding consultations with the Russian side are not being held. On the other hand, a legal base has already been established in Russia for the application of measures to protect the Russian market in conformity with the rules adopted in the WTO. The discussion is about the already mentioned Law on State Regulation of Foreign Trade Activities and about the established government commission on protective measures in foreign trade.

The complexity during the adoption of protective measures, examples of which are the anti-dumping and compensation tariffs, as well as the import quotas, lies in staying within the bounds of what is authorized by the WTO and not sliding into protectionism or excessive zeal in the use of the still not forgotten quota-setting, licensing and institution of the specialized importers. However, in any event and despite the first impression, membership in the WTO is proving to be advantageous for all Russian participants in VED [foreign economic activities]. The exporters are receiving the opportunity to assert their rights in world markets in a civilized manner. The importers are firmly confident of a future reduction in the import tariff (in truth, according to the government's existing plans, this will occur no sooner than 1997). The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations has as its disposal the new, WTO-sanctified set of means for administrative control over foreign trade.

Russia National Affairs

***Socioeconomic Situation as of 14 August**

954E1322A Moscow DELOVOY MIR in Russian 23 Aug 95 p 4

[Report prepared from Russian Goskomstat data: "The Socioeconomic Situation as of 14 August"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

PRICES FOR CONSUMER GOODS AND SERVICES

In the period from 8 to 14 August, the consumer price index was 101.1 percent, including 100.9 percent for foodstuffs, 101.3 percent for nonfood products, and 101.6 percent for paid services to the public.

The highest price increase for consumer goods and services during this period was recorded in cities in Siberia (1.8 percent) and the lowest price increase was recorded in the Northwest and Volga regions (0.6 percent).

The consumer price index is shown below:

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	Percentage of Previous Date Prices Were Recorded			Average Daily Increase in Prices, in Percent	
	31 July	7 August	14 August	August	July
Consumer price index	100.9	101.2	101.1	0.16	0.17
including:					
food products	101.0	100.5	100.9	0.10	0.14
nonfood products	101.9	101.3	101.3	0.18	0.17
paid services for the public	100.4	103.7	101.6	0.37	0.30

Since the beginning of the month the consumer price index rose to 102.3 percent, including 101.4 percent for foodstuffs,. 102.5 percent for nonfood products, and 105.4 percent for paid services.

FOODSTUFFS

The rate of the rise in prices for food from 8 to 14 August increased over the preceding week.

The dynamics of prices for the basic food commodity groups are shown below:

	Percentage of Previous Date Prices Were Recorded		
	31 July	7 August	14 August
All food products	101.0	100.5	100.9
including:			
meat and meat products	101.6	100.9	101.3
fish and fish products	101.4	100.8	101.6
edible oils	100.4	100.5	100.7
including:			
vegetable oil	102.0	102.1	103.6
milk and dairy products	101.2	101.3	101.4
eggs	101.6	100.1	101.2
sugar	103.0	102.5	102.3
bread and bakery products	102.8	104.5	103.6
macaroni and cereal products	102.2	102.0	102.5
alcoholic beverages	101.3	101.4	102.1
fruit and vegetables, including potatoes	96.8	94.1	94.1

The highest increase in prices over the past week in August was recorded for flour, individual types of bread and bakery products, and vegetable oil (3.6 to 4 percent). Individual types of bread were more expensive in Kursk, Astrakhan, and Chita and vegetable oil was more expensive in Tambov and Cherkessk. The prices for butter were practically unchanged. Prices for potatoes, cabbage, root crops, and apples dropped in price substantially (5 to 9 percent).

The cost of a selection of 19 basic food products decreased somewhat in the second week of August, reaching 209,400 rubles [R], calculated for the month. Maximum cost of the selection was maintained in cities of the Far East and the minimum cost was recorded in cities of the Volga and Central-Chernozem regions. The maximum and minimum cost of the selection differed by a factor of 3.3. The highest increase in the cost of a selection was recorded in Chita, Krasnoyarsk, and Gorno-Altaysk (6 to 8 percent), whereas the cost of a selection decreased by 5 to 6 percent in Samara, Makhachkala, Kurgan, Pskov, and Belgorod.

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NONFOOD PRODUCTS

The rate of increase in prices for nonfood products from 8 to 14 August remained at the level of the preceding week.

The dynamics of prices for the main groups of nonfood products are shown below:

	Percentage of Previous Date Prices Were Recorded		
	31 July	7 August	14 August
All nonfood products	100.9	101.3	101.3
including:			
fabrics	101.6	101.4	101.2
clothing and underwear	100.7	101.2	101.4
footwear	100.9	101.2	101.7
detergents	100.9	100.9	100.9
tobacco products	101.9	102.4	102.7
electric appliances	100.8	101.1	101.2
medicines and dressings	101.1	101.1	101.1
gasoline	100.6	101.1	100.4

The highest increase over the past week in August was recorded for linen fabrics, commodities for children, domestic tobacco products, cotton products, stationery, and fuel for the public (2.5 to 5 percent).

PAID SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC

The rate of increase in charges for paid services from 8 to 14 August was less than the previous week.

The dynamics of charges for the basic groups of paid services are shown below:

	Percentage of Previous Date Prices Were Recorded		
	31 July	7 August	14 August
All paid services for the public	100.4	103.7	101.6
including:			
everyday services	100.4	101.6	101.3
passenger transportation services	100.0	103.1	100.7
communications services	100.3	103.5	100.6
housing and municipal services	100.9	105.4	102.6
preschool institution services	100.1	103.2	102.9
services by sanatorium and health restoration institutions	100.3	101.1	100.4
public health services	100.2	100.5	102.1

Over the past week, as in previous weeks, the highest increase in rates was recorded for public utilities: charges for electricity and gas increased by 4 to 8 percent. Fares on suburban trains and charges for public health services and preschool institutions rose by 2 to 3 percent.

Russian Cities Where a Selection of 19 Basic Food Products Cost the Most and the Least (as of 14 August) *

	Cost of the Selection of 19 Basic Food Products, Calculated for a Month, in Rubles	Change in the Cost of the Selection from 8 to 14 August, in Percent
Cities Where Cost of the Selection Is Highest:		

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Yakutsk	451,890	101
Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy	426,784	100
Magadan	410,857	101
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk	349,126	98
Vladivostok	346,566	99
Chita	299,511	106
Irkutsk	294,443	97
Khabarovsk	280,360	98
Murmansk	276,545	100
Arkhangelsk	258,622	101
Cities Where Cost of the Selection Is Lowest:		
Cheboksary	165,037	98
Voronezh	163,682	98
Orel	160,342	99
Saransk	160,322	101
Penza	159,127	99
Kursk	156,478	104
Kazan	155,853	96
Belgorod	152,251	95
Tambov	148,734	103
Ulyanovsk	135,277	98

* Capitals of Russian Federation republics and oblast and kray centers.

PRICES FOR BASIC MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES

The rise in average prices for the material and technical resources acquired by industrial enterprises in July 1995 slowed down to 106 percent of the preceding month (it was 108 percent in June 1995).

From January to July 1995, the trend of a faster increase in prices for the material and technical resources acquired by industrial enterprises, compared with the wholesale prices for their finished products (2.6 and 2.2 times as much, respectively) was continued.

Prices for the basic materials used by construction organizations rose at the rate of 7 percent in July, and the cost to acquire them increased by twice as much since the beginning of the year.

The change in average prices to acquire products used for production and technical purposes is shown below, according to the basic resource groups:

	Percent of the Preceding Month				
	January	March	June	July	July 1995, in Percent of December 1994
Material and technical resources acquired by industrial enterprises	126	115	108	106	258
including:					
electric power	121	105	106	107	247
thermal power	116	105	115	109	290
fuel	128	120	107	105	267
raw material and materials for heavy industry	124	113	108	106	228
raw material and materials for the light and food industries	121	115	108	111	239

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	Percent of the Preceding Month				
Building materials, components, and structures for construction organizations	109	113	109	107	196
including:					
cement	113	107	107	112	217
structural brick	103	104	111	111	187

Prices rose at a faster rate for material resources acquired by enterprises in the gas industry (24 percent) and the coal industry (15 percent). Material resources for nonferrous metallurgy, machinebuilding, power engineering, and light and food industries rose in price by 10 to 11 percent; prices rose by 2 to 7 percent for enterprises in the oil drilling and oil refining industry, in ferrous metallurgy and the chemical, timber, and woodworking industries, and the building materials industry. The average rate of increase in prices for raw material and materials acquired in July 1995 by sectors in heavy industry was 106 percent, which was lower than the rate of increase in prices for raw material acquired by the light and food industries (111 percent).

The direct increase in prices by suppliers was the main reason for the rise in prices for resources for industrial enterprises. The proportion of the transportation component in the cost of acquiring material and technical resources in the past month increased to an average 15 percent for industrial enterprises (it was 13 percent in June) and 14 percent for construction enterprises (10 percent in June). Transportation expenses in the price of acquiring various types of material resources have been differentiated as follows: 53 percent for construction sand; 38 percent for power generation coal; 21 percent of motor vehicle gasoline; 15 percent for diesel fuel; 10 percent for petroleum; 7 percent for lumber; and 2 to 4 percent for rolled ferrous metals, cotton fabrics, granulated sugar, and vegetable oil.

In July, as in previous months, industrial enterprises acquired most resources in the domestic market (92.1 percent), where prices had risen by 6 percent.

Differentiation of the average prices for certain types of material resources acquired in Russia's domestic market by enterprises in different regions is shown with the following data:

	Thousands of Rubles		
	Minimum Price Level	Maximum Price Level	Average Price for Russia (as a Reference)
Petroleum, per metric ton	266	615	334
Power generation coal, per metric ton	30	302	116
Coking coal, per metric ton	197	377	290
Iron ore, per metric ton	84	222	162
Caustic soda, per metric ton	408	936	954
Single-thread cotton yarn, per metric ton	15 million	26.945 million	20.135 million
Granulated sugar, per metric ton	2.124 million	4.145 million	2.84 million
Ready-mix concrete, per cubic meter	128	557	213
Structural brick, per thousand pieces of standard brick	225	7.492 million	462
Cement, per metric ton	109	781	182
Window glass, per square meter	3.6	31	12

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The differences in the level of prices for specific types of raw material and materials which industrial enterprises acquired in the Russian market and through imports are maintained. Thus, in July 1995 the average prices for oil refining enterprises to acquire petroleum, as well as for ferrous metallurgy enterprises to acquire cast iron, structural steel, and iron ore from suppliers in countries of the near abroad were higher than in the domestic market. At the same time, the power generation coal coming from CIS countries was 13 percent less expensive for power engineering enterprises than the coal bought from Russian suppliers. Light industry enterprises purchased imported flax fiber and cotton yarn at prices which were substantially lower on average than in the domestic market. Imports of raw material for the foodstuff industry from non-CIS countries were much more expensive for Russian producers than material acquired in the domestic market.

INDUSTRY

The consolidated index of the average daily output of basic types of products for 13 days in August 1995, compared with the same period in August 1994, was 100.1 percent (78 percent in August 1994); it was 101 percent for the same period in July 1995 (102 percent in August 1994).

Production of the most important types of industrial output at large and medium-sized enterprises over the 13 days of August 1995 is shown by the following data:

	Produced in 13 Days of August 1995	Percentage of the Corresponding Period (Average Daily Production)	
		August 1994	July 1995
Electric power generated by general-use stations, in billions of kilowatt-hours	23.5	103	98
Petroleum, including gas condensate, in millions of metric tons	9.6	94	99
Initial refining of oil, in millions of metric tons	6.3	103	104
Natural gas, in billions of cubic meters	18.1	98	97
Coal, in millions of metric tons	7.0	96	99
Steel, in millions of metric tons	1.7	101	107
Finished rolled stock, including procurement for export, in millions of metric tons	1.2	94	92
Steel pipe, in thousands of metric tons	108	91	99
Coke, in millions of metric tons	1.0	105	104
Low-power electric motors, in thousands of units	36	84	140
Self-propelled cranes, in units	30	26	37
Machine tools, in units	21	47	60
Trucks, in units	4,500	67	95
Passenger cars, in units	27,200	102	126
Tractors, in units	205	38	61
Chemical fibers and thread, in metric tons	6,500	141	138

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		Percentage of the Corresponding Period (Average Daily Production)	
Mineral fertilizers, in thousands of metric tons (in terms of 100 percent nutrients)	267	131	107
Polyvinyl chloride plastic compounds, in metric tons	1,600	113	83
Synthetic rubber, in metric tons	29,400	190	135
Commercial lumber, in millions of compact cubic meters	1.5	143	105
Lumber, in thousands of cubic meters	275	111	98
Hard wood-fiber boards, in millions of standard square meters	6.8	106	107
Commercial cellulose, in metric tons	67,100	133	88
Paper, in thousands of metric tons	107	133	104
Cement, in millions of metric tons	1.6	106	104
Ceramic facing tiles, in thousands of square meters	505	121	100.9
Slate, in millions of standard slabs	59.1	113	120
Structural brick, in millions of units of standard brick	262	101	100.1

		Percentage of the Corresponding Period (Average Daily Production)	
Fabrics: altogether, in millions of square meters	41.8	133	134
Hosiery, in millions of pairs	6.5	85	80
Knitted goods, in millions of items	2.2	71	131
Footwear, in millions of pairs	0.9	92	103
Televisions, in units	18,900	59	86
Radio receivers, in units	6,500	144	90
Refrigerators and freezers, in units	44,000	54	73
Vacuum cleaners, in units	14,900	72	206
Washing machines, in units	19,100	43	41
Meat, including Category 1 by-products, in metric tons	40,300	79	113
All-milk products, calculated in terms of milk, in thousands of metric tons	149	67	93
Butter, in metric tons	19,400	88	98

ON THE COURSE OF THE HARVEST

Grain is being harvested at a faster pace this year than last year. By 14 August, 48 percent of the grain crops planted in Russia had been cut (it was 27 percent last year). Harvesting of these crops has been practically completed in the North Caucasus. In Samara Oblast, Bashkortostan, and Kalmykia, 80 to 86 percent of the grain crops have been harvested; in Volgograd and

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Ulyanovsk oblasts and the Udmurt Republic, 73 to 75 percent of the crops have been harvested; and in the Central-Chernozem region, 67 percent of the crops have been harvested.

Harvesting of the later grain crops and long-stemmed flax has begun. Some 88,000 hectares of millet (14 percent of the area) and 60,000 hectares of buckwheat (4 percent of the area) have been cut. Long-stemmed flax has been pulled out over an area of 29,000 hectares (17 percent).

According to estimates, 34 million metric tons of grain (in the initially debited weight) have been milled by agricultural enterprises and farmers; agricultural enterprises account for 96 percent of this amount. The average grain yield per hectare this year is roughly 40 percent less than in previous years.

Progress made in the harvesting of grain crops by Russia's agricultural enterprises as of 14 August is shown in the following data:

	1992	1993	1994	1995
Grain crops cut (except corn):				
in millions of hectares	28.0	19.6	13.2	23.6
in percent of area planted	49	37	27	48
Grain threshed:				
in millions of hectares	25.8	16.7	10.8	22.2
in percent of area planted	45	31	22	45
in percent of area cut	92	85	81	94
Grain milled (in the initially debited weight):				
altogether, in millions of metric tons	58.1	41.4	24.3	32.2
quintals per hectare	22.6	24.9	22.6	14.5

Operations are under way to prepare for next year's harvest. Winter crops have been planted on 1.5 million hectares and fall plowing has been carried out on 5.1 million hectares; a year ago, the figures were 0.6 million and 1.4 million hectares, respectively, by this time.

ON THE OVERDUE DEBT IN PAYMENT OF WAGES

The total amount of the overdue debt in payment of wages at enterprises and organizations in industry, construction, transportation, and agriculture increased by 11 percent over the preceding month, reaching R7.158 trillion as of 1 August 1995.

The amount of overdue indebtedness increased in all the sectors indicated except transport. Of the total increase in overdue debt (R717 billion), industrial enterprises account for R485 billion (68 percent) and agricultural enterprises account for R187 billion.

In July 1995, there was a decrease in the number of enterprises with an overdue debt in payment of wages: by 2 percent in industry, 4 percent in construction, and 8 percent in transport.

The dynamics of the overdue debt in payment of wages are reflected in the following data:

	As of the Beginning of the Month				
	January	April	July	August	August, in Percent of July
Number of enterprises with a debt in payment of wages	30,900	36,500	36,400	36,100	99.4

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	As of the Beginning of the Month				
including:					
industry	6,100	7,700	7,800	7,700	98
construction	5,200	6,300	6,000	5,700	96
agriculture	19,600	20,400	20,400	20,700	102
transport	—	2,100	2,200	2,000	92
Amount of overdue debt in payment of wages, in rubles	4.2 trillion	5.687 trillion	6.441 trillion	7.158 trillion	111
including:					
industry	2.17 trillion	3.056 trillion	3.425 trillion	3.910 trillion	114
construction	729 billion	898 billion	1.008 trillion	1.07 trillion	106
agriculture	1.301 trillion	1.35 trillion	1.525 trillion	1.712 trillion	112
transport	—	383 billion	483 billion	466 billion	96
In percent of the monthly wage fund of enterprises with a debt	143	140	121	121	x
including in:					
industry	119	121	110	118	x
construction	143	151	130	119	x
agriculture	214	255	196	184	x
transport	—	95	73	60	x

Indebtedness of more than 2 months totaled R2.093 trillion as of 1 August 1995; compared with the preceding month, it rose by 10 percent for all the sectors cited, including 13 percent in industry, 12 percent in construction, 6 percent in agriculture, and 4 percent in transport.

The relationship between indebtedness of more than 2 months and the total amount of overdue debt is shown below:

	As of the Beginning of the Month		
	April	July	August
Overdue debt of more than 2 months in percent of the total amount of overdue debt	35	30	29
including in:			

	As of the Beginning of the Month		
industry	31	26	25
construction	31	26	27
agriculture	52	45	42
transport	23	20	21

Data on the overdue debt in payment of wages by sectors of industry are provided in the table:

	As of the Beginning of the Month, in Billions of Rubles			
	January	April	July	August
Industry	2.17 trillion	3.056 trillion	3.425 trillion	3.910 trillion

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	As of the Beginning of the Month, in Billions of Rubles			
in percent of preceding month	88	102	102	114
including:				
power engineering	126	162	321	378
in percent of preceding month	90	84	106	118
oil refining	353	335	248	259
in percent of preceding month	96	103	85	104
gas industry (extraction and refining of natural and casing-head gas)	41	103	116	139
in percent of preceding month	49	209	208	119
coal industry	264	412	422	522
in percent of preceding month	84	96	105	124
ferrous metallurgy	71	101	102	102
in percent of preceding month	103	130	73	100.3
nonferrous metallurgy	128	81	127	170
in percent of preceding month	86	96	85	134
chemical and petrochemical industry	44	56	63	86
in percent of preceding month	75	89	117	137
machinebuilding (including metal working)	703	769	853	977
in percent of preceding month	85	100.3	107	115
timber, woodworking, and paper and pulp industries	169	220	250	267
in percent of preceding month	88	102	103	107
building materials production	82	117	118	128
in percent of preceding month	115	85	98	109
light industry	54	75	115	118
in percent of preceding month	89	88	119	103
foodstuff industry	127	165	175	194
in percent of preceding month	106	109	106	111
including fishing	—	115	134	142
in percent of preceding month	—	106	116	107

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On average, a worker was not paid the following wages during the period: R1.8 million in the gas industry, which is 101 percent of the average monthly wage of a worker in this sector in June 1995; R1.0 million (98 percent) in the coal industry; R700,000 (55 percent) in the fishing industry; R500,000 (54 percent) in power engineering; R242,000 (50 percent) in the timber, woodworking, and paper and pulp industries; and R188,000 (50 percent) in machinebuilding.

Tyumen Oblast has the largest amount of overdue debt in payment of wages—R556 billion; other overdue debts are as follows: Kemerovo Oblast R391 billion, Yakutia R306 billion, Tatarstan R257 billion, Irkutsk Oblast R236 billion, Bashkortostan R232 billion, Rostov Oblast R223 billion, Khabarovsk Kray R221 billion, and Chelyabinsk Oblast R217 billion. These regions account for 37 percent of the total amount of overdue indebtedness.

More than half of all debt has not been paid in more than 2 months in the Tuva, Altay, and Dagestan republics; the Aga, Buryat, and Komi-Permyak autonomous okrugs; Amur and Magadan oblasts; and the Jewish Autonomous Oblast.

***Socioeconomic Situation as of 24 July**

954E1232A Moscow DELOVOY MIR in Russian 2 Aug 95 p 4

[Economic report from the Russian State Committee for Statistics: "Socioeconomic Situation as of 24 July"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS AND SERVICES. During the period 18 through 24 July, the consumer price index amounted to 101.4 percent, including 100.9 percent for food products, 101.8 percent for nonfood products, and 102.6 percent for paid services to the populace.**

The greatest price increases for consumer goods and services over the past week were registered in cities of the Central Region (by 2.0 percent), the least—in cities of the Central Chernozem and North Caucasus Regions (by 0.5-0.6 percent).

The Consumer Price Index (in percentages)

	Percentage of previous price-registration date			Average daily increase in prices	
	10 Jul	17 Jul	24 Jul	July	June
Consumer price index	101.4	101.1	101.4	0.18	0.21
including:					
Food products	101.3	101.0	100.9	0.14	0.24
Nonfood products	101.1	101.2	101.8	0.18	0.15
Paid services to the populace	102.5	101.4	102.6	0.37	0.28

The consumer price index amounted to 104.5 percent since the beginning of the month, including 103.5 percent for food products, 104.3 percent for nonfood products, and 109.2 percent for paid services to the populace.

The consumer price index for July is estimated to be 105.5 percent.

FOOD PRODUCTS. During the period 18 through 24 July, the rate of growth of prices for food products remained virtually at the previous week's level.

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Price Dynamics for the Main Groupings of Food Products

	Percentage of previous price-registration date		
	10 Jul	17 Jul	24 Jul
All food products	101.3	101.0	100.9
including:			
Meat and meat products	101.1	101.0	101.3
Fish and fish products	100.7	100.6	101.0
Edible fats	100.2	100.1	100.3
including:			
Vegetable oil	101.4	101.7	101.8
Milk and dairy products	100.2	100.2	100.7
Eggs	100.3	100.9	100.8
Sugar	102.1	103.6	103.8
Bread and bakery products	101.9	102.3	102.2
Macaroni and cereal products	101.5	101.8	101.8
Alcoholic beverages	100.8	101.4	101.1
Fruits and vegetables, including potatoes	102.2	99.4	97.9

During the period 18 through 24 July, while a relatively low rate of price increase was observed for the majority of food products, the price of flour increased by 4.0 percent, sugar—3.8 percent, and certain varieties of grains and cereals—by 2-3 percent. The seasonal increase in potato prices amounted to 3 percent. At the same time, virtually no change was seen in the prices of frozen fish, butter, eggs, milk, and nonfat cottage cheese, while a certain decrease (2-3 percent) was seen is the prices of fresh cabbage, beets, carrots, onions, and apples.

The cost of the selection of the 19 main food product varieties increased by 1.2 percent on the average across Russia, amounting to R211,100 [rubles]. Maximum cost of the selection continued to be observed in cities of the Far East; the minimum cost was in cities of the Volga and Central Chernozem Regions. The differentiation factor between maximum and minimum cost of the selection by city was 2.9, as opposed to 4.8 in December of last year. The greatest increase in cost of the selection over the past week was registered in Blagoveshchensk, Chelyabinsk, and Ulyanovsk (8-12 percent). Cost of the selection remained virtually unchanged over the week in most cities of the North Caucasus. In Voronezh and Saratov the selection rose 10-12 percent in price.

NONFOOD PRODUCTS. During the period 18 through 24 July, the rate of growth of prices for nonfood products was virtually double the rate of growth of food prices.

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Price Dynamics for the Main Groupings of Nonfood Products

	Percentage of previous price-registration date		
	10 Jul	17 Jul	24 Jul
All nonfood products	101.1	101.2	101.8
including:			
Fabrics	101.2	101.8	102.3
Clothing and linens	100.8	100.8	101.7
Footwear	101.0	101.5	102.4
Detergents	101.0	101.4	101.7
Tobacco products	101.8	102.2	103.2
Electric appliances	101.3	101.0	101.7
Medicines, dressings, and bandages	101.0	101.6	102.0
Gasoline	101.0	102.1	100.5

The greatest increase over the past week was observed with respect to domestic tobacco products, fabrics, bed linens, cottons, and building materials (by 2-5 percent).

PAID SERVICES TO THE POPULACE. The rate of increase in cost of paid services to the populace over the past week, as in previous weeks of the month, exceeded the rate of growth of commodity prices.

Cost Dynamics for the Main Groupings of Paid Services

	Percentage of previous price-registration date		
	10 Jul	17 Jul	24 Jul
All paid services to the populace	102.5	101.4	102.6
including:			
Consumer services	101.6	100.7	101.4
Passenger transportation services	101.9	100.9	104.7
Communications services	102.8	100.9	101.4
Housing and municipal services	103.6	102.3	102.2
Services of children's preschool institutions	100.9	100.9	101.2
Services at sanatoriums, resorts, and health improvement centers	105.3	100.8	101.6
Public health services	101.2	101.1	101.5

The most significant cost increases over the past week were observed in city transportation (by 15 percent). The cost of streetcar, trolley, and bus transportation in Moscow doubled; cost of transportation by subway rose 33 percent.

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Rates for electricity, radio reception, electric appliance repair, and dry cleaning increased by 3-5 percent.

Russian Cities (Capitals of Republics Within the Russian Federation, Oblast and Kray Centers) With Maximum and Minimum Cost of the Selection of 19 Main Food Products as of 24 July

	Monthly cost of the selection of the 19 main food products, rubles	Change in the selection cost, 18 through 24 July, percent
Cities with maximum cost of the selection		
Yakutsk	399,708	102
Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy	374,157	100
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk	364,688	106
Magadan	362,783	103
Vladivostok	349,118	97
Khabarovsk	296,203	102
Birobijan	293,691	102
Irkutsk	287,466	107
Chita	275,093	99
Moscow	270,248	101
Cities with minimum cost of the selection		
Ryazan	167,503	102
Voronezh	167,301	91
Penza	166,933	101
Gorno-Altaysk	166,069	104
Kursk	164,501	106
Orel	163,926	104
Maykop	161,812	99
Saransk	161,240	95
Tambov	145,076	100
Ulyanovsk	136,183	108

The cost of the selection of the 19 main food products in St. Petersburg was R219,915 (100 percent)

INDUSTRY. The composite index of average daily output of the main production varieties for the first 23 days of July 1995 amounted to 101 percent of the level for the same period of July 1994 (in July 1994—68 percent), and to 103 percent of the level for the same period of June 1995, excluding consideration of the seasonal factor (otherwise—98 percent).

Output of the most important industrial production varieties at large- and mid-size enterprises over the first 23 days of July 1995 is characterized by the following data:

	Output over the first 23 days of July 1995	Percentage of the same period (average daily production) in:	
		July 1994	June 1995
Electric power generated by general-use power stations, billion kilowatt-hours	42.7	108	102
Oil, including gas condensate, million tonnes	17.4	94	100.4
Primary oil refining, million tonnes	11.4		104
Natural gas, billion cubic meters	33.0	98	99.2
Coal, million tonnes	13.1	102	104
Steel, million tonnes	3.0	100.9	93
Finished rolled metal, including procurement for export, million tonnes	2.3	105	97

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		Percentage of the same period (average daily production) in:	
Steel pipe, tonnes	222,000	107	122
Coke, million tonnes	1.8	103	96
Small electric motors, each	77,600	91	98
Wheeled-vehicle cranes, each	94	43	78
Pneumatic cranes, each	3	21	37
Metal-cutting machine tools, each	65	56	37
Cargo vehicles, each	7,800	80	99
Light vehicles, each	42,300	83	82
Tractors, each	696	76	106
Chemical fiber and filament, tonnes	8,600	98	75
Mineral fertilizers (in terms of 100 percent nutritive substance), tonnes	426,000	108	96
Polyvinyl-chloride plastic compounds	3,800	124	130
Synthetic rubbers, tonnes	46,700	210	128
Commercial timber, million cubic meters	2.4	140	100.7
Sawn lumber, cubic meters	464,000	109	93
Hardwood fiberboard, million standard square meters	11.6	125	102
Commercial cellulose, tonnes	133,000	203	93
Paper, tonnes	178,000	137	102
Cement, million tonnes	2.7	102	109
Ceramic panelling, square meters	856,000	121	100.5
Slate, million standard slabs	97.4	103	93
Construction brick, million standard bricks	480	94	107
Fabric (total), million square meters	53.7	112	65
Socks and hosiery, million pair	12.6	86	74
Knitted articles, million	3.2	75	76
Footwear, million pair	1.6	76	83
Television sets, each	33,400	41	81
Radios, each	20,200	99.8	155
Refrigerators and freezers, each	110,000	87	107
Electric vacuum cleaners, each	18,700	46	76
Washing machines, each	52,200	65	115

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		Percentage of the same period (average daily production) in:	
Meat, including Category 1 by-products, tonnes	62,200	78	94
Whole-milk production in terms of milk, tonnes	281,000	71	94
Butter, tonnes	35,500	79	102

It is estimated that in July of this year, the index of physical volume of industrial production will be 101 percent of the level for July of last year (in July 1994—74 percent), and 103 percent of the level for June 1995, excluding the seasonal factor (otherwise—98 percent).

In January-July 1995, the index is estimated to be 97 percent of the level for the same period of 1994 (in January-July 1994—76 percent).

SHIPMENT OF COMMODITIES (PRODUCTION OUTPUT) TO REGIONS OF THE FAR NORTH.

Shipment of Main Varieties of Food Products and Technical Production Output to Regions of the Far North and Equivalent Localities as of 20 July 1995

	Transported as of 20 July 1995			
	Tonnes	Percentage of 15 July 1994	Including to regions with restricted delivery time frame	
			Tonnes	As percentage of total shipment volume
Food products				
Meat and meat products expressed as meat	93,100	112	21,700	23
Canned meat, million standard cans	21,500	50	7,500	35
Milk and dairy products expressed as milk	429,000	2.2-fold	129,000	30
Butter	18,500	104	7,300	39
Cheese, including cheese spreads	4,800	109	1,000	21
Vegetable oil	15,200	89	5,200	34
Sugar	59,400	105	16,200	27
Confectionery items	26,500	93	8,000	30
Tea	3,400	89	1,100	32
Macaroni products	15,000	106	4,300	29
Canned fruits and vegetables, million standard cans	68,800	106	19,400	28
Flour	227,000	65	104	46
Cereals	48,500	138	17,000	35
Technical production output				

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	Transported as of 20 July 1995			
Petroleum products	4.938 million	116	907,000	18
Commercial timber, cubic meters	396,000	6.5-fold	6,700	2
Cement	166,000	48	22,000	13
Ferrous rolled metals	111,000	102	19,100	17

For the first 20 days of July, shipments of main food products to regions of the Far North comprised 16-24 percent of the total shipment volume since the beginning of the year; of commercial timber, 60 percent; rolled metal, 29 percent; cement, 25 percent; and petroleum products, 22 percent.

THE CONSUMER MARKET. During the first half of this year, the total volume of retail trade turnover, including public kitchens, amounted to R220 trillion. This is triple the amount for the same period last year. Commodity bulk sold to the populace over this period was 8 percent less. In June of this year, the physical volume of retail trade turnover remained at the May 1995 level.

Change in the Total Volume of Retail Trade Turnover

	First half of 1995, trillion rubles	As percentage of same period in 1994		As percentage of previous period			For reference: First half 1994 percentage of first half 1993
		First half of 1995	June 1995	First quarter	Second quarter	June	
Total volume of retail trade turnover	220	92	95	83	103	100	100.5
including:							
Commodity turnover of trade enterprises	159	91	93	79	107	99.9	96
Commodity turnover of personal-property, mixed, and food markets	61	96	99.7	95	94	100.3	114

Public kitchens sold production output valued at R7.3 trillion during the first half of this year—21 percent less in constant prices than during the first half of 1994. Their share of the total retail trade turnover was 3.3 percent, as opposed to 3.6 percent for the same period of last year. A decrease in customers was observed both at the general-access network of these enterprises and in the dining facilities and buffets servicing the populace by place of work or study.

Nonfood products continue to dominate the macrostructure of retail trade turnover, as was the case last year. Their share of the total retail trade sales volume has been gradually decreasing during the first half of this

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year, this related to a certain change in effective buying power of the populace.

Food products valued at R105 trillion were sold to the populace in January-June of this year, nonfood products—R115 trillion. In terms of physical volume, these amounts are 11 and 5 percent less than for the same period in 1994.

Monthly dynamics of total retail trade turnover volume and turnover volume from the sale of food and nonfood products (in constant prices)

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Total retail trade turnover volume as percentage of:						
the same period in 1994	97	91	84	86	100	95
the previous month	82	94	107	95	109	100
including:						
food products as a percentage of						
the same period in 1994	94	94	86	82	91	88
the previous month	78	98	110	94	107	99
nonfood products as a percentage of						
the same period in 1994	99	89	82	90	107	101
the previous month	85	90	105	95	111	101

The share of the nonstate sector in public kitchens was somewhat less than in retail trade. This year the share of commodity turnover of public kitchen enterprises attributable to the nonstate sector was 64 percent (in January-June of last year—54 percent).

The state of the consumer market is characterized to a great extent by the quality of production output offered and its assortment diversity. Expansion of the assortment of consumer products offered takes place to a great extent by virtue of imported production output.

Structure of the Sources of Formation of Retail Commodity Turnover

	In percentage of total	
	First half 1994	First half 1995
Commodity turnover resources	100	100
including:		
domestic	52	46
imported (including non-organized imports)	48	54

For many commodity groups, imported products are represented by a greater number of selections than domestic products. This is true first and foremost with respect to everyday and radioelectronic appliances, many varieties of electric household devices, clothing, footwear, tobacco products, perfumes, and cosmetics.

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Proportions of certain varieties of domestic and imported nonfood products offered for sale (information from a selective sampling survey conducted by state statistics organs at the end of the first half of 1995; figures rendered in percentages)

	Proportion of total available products surveyed attributable to imports (products coming from countries of the far abroad)		
	April 1994	March 1995	June 1995
Men's shirts	30	49	53
Men's pants	43	33	45
Men's low-quarter shoes	46	56	88
Women's blouse	41	50	62
Color television sets	57	80	82
Video cassette recorders	86	97	97

At retail trade enterprises in the city of Moscow, the proportion of imported nonfood products is higher than the average for Russia. This includes goods produced by light industry for adults—by a factor of 1.3-1.6, children's articles—by a factor of 1.7-2.5, and cultural, consumer, and household items—by 3-7 percent. In port cities (Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, Vladivostok, etc.), virtually all color television sets and video cassette recorders being offered to the consumer are of foreign manufacture.

The proportion of imported canned meats available for sale across Russia amounted to 66 percent of the total volume, chocolate—49 percent, macaroni products—40 percent, cheese—36 percent, and sausage products—22 percent. The distribution of imported food products to the stores is not uniform. For example, in 7 percent of surveyed stores, imported cheeses were not available for sale; while in 16 percent of the stores, half or more of the cheese varieties were imported. With respect to sausage products, these figures were 18 and 9 percent, respectively. In surveyed trade enterprises of Tyumen, Saransk, Elista, Vyatka, Abakan, and Ulan-Ude, no imported sausage products were available for sale; in those of Izhevsk, Nalchik, Gorno-Altaysk, and Kyzyl, no imported cheeses were available.

A selective sampling survey of the directors (owners) of retail trade enterprises conducted by state statistics organs showed that trading in imported commodities was advantageous to the majority of them (68 percent). Indicated as the main reason for this was the rapid turnaround for such products (noted by 46 percent of those surveyed), more advantageous purchase conditions (45 percent), the longer shelf life of imported food products (26 percent), better product appearance, etc. (13 percent).

The directors (owners) of trade enterprises prefer to purchase products produced in the European countries, the United States, Canada, and Japan (65 percent of respondents so indicated) because of their higher quality (59 percent) and greater consumer demand for them (33 percent). Preference for commodities produced in China, Korea, and Hong Kong is shown by 29 percent of those surveyed, who are attracted by the lower prices (57 percent of respondents) and large volume of available products (29 percent).

The main suppliers of imported commodities in retail trade are commercial structures (as noted by 64 percent of the directors or owners) and private individuals (21 percent).

Some 45 percent of employees in the trade sphere believe the trade volume of imported commodities will increase; 39 percent believe it will remain the same; 16 percent believe it will decrease.

As of 1 July of this year, retail trade enterprises had commodity supplies valued at R24.3 trillion.

Change in the Volume of Commodity Supplies and Retail Trade Volume Reserve

	As of the beginning of the month	
	Commodity supplies in retail trade, trillion rubles	Commodity turnover reserve (in trade-turnover days)
January	15.4	33

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	As of the beginning of the month	
February	16.4	38
March	18.8	41
April	20.5	38
May	21.7	41
June	23.3	41
July	24.3	38

The commodity turnover reserve at nonstate-owned enterprises amounted to 32 days, as opposed to 49 days in the state sector. Speed of commodity turnover was 1.5 times greater in the nonstate enterprises.

A stable saturation of the retail trade network with the main consumer commodities has presently been secured in all regions. In this regard, the Russian State Committee for Statistics has shifted from calculation of the saturation coefficient to a level of main-consumer-product availability in the stores.

Changes in the Level of Product Availability for Certain Consumer Commodities in the Retail Trade of Russian Federation Enterprises (by month, in percentages)

	Percentage of total number of stores surveyed in which the product was available for sale					
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Food products						
Beef	41	44	45	47	46	45
Butter	54	68	75	80	79	81
Vegetable oil	69	72	74	74	73	73
Eggs	58	65	68	70	67	65
Sugar	60	65	70	72	67	68
Nonfood products						
Men's jacket	68	66	65	67	64	60
Men's suit	52	53	54	59	58	57
Women's light overcoat	56	54	56	58	54	50
Men's low-quarter shoes	59	59	59	64	63	62
Women's summer shoes	63	63	65	71	73	75

In June of this year, the availability level in stores for the main food and nonfood products dropped 2 percent from the May 1995 level.

The product availability level in stores increased over the past month in 30 regions, decreased in 38, and remained the same in the rest. In the republics of Dagestan, Altay, Khakasia, and Sakha (Yakutia), and in Chita Oblast, this index rose over the period in question by 11-19 percent; in Kostroma, Tambov, Astrakhan, and Novosibirsk Oblasts, it dropped by 12-21 percent.

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Availability Level of Main Food and Nonfood Products (Consolidated Within Appropriate Groups) in Stores in June 1995, in Percentages, by Economic Region

	Percentage of total number of surveyed stores where products were available for sale		
	All products	Food products	Nonfood products
Northern	61	62	60
Northwestern	61	63	58
Central	67	64	70
Volga-Vyatka	61	62	61
Central Chernozem	56	54	58
Volga	69	71	68
North Caucasus	62	60	63
Urals	60	60	60
West Siberian	64	63	65
East Siberian	61	60	62
Far Eastern	56	54	58

PAID SERVICES TO THE POPULACE. The volume of paid services provided to the population through all channels in January-June of this year was valued at R48 trillion—10 percent less than for January-June of last year in comparable prices. In June, the population was provided services amounting to 3 percent more, in comparable prices, than the value of those rendered in May 1995.

Expenditures of the populace in payment for services are increasing. Their share within consumer outlays increased to 17 percent over January-June of this year, as opposed to 13 percent in January-June of last year. The galloping rate of price increases and rate hikes for services, along with the reduced real disposable monetary income of the populace, constitute a primary reason for the reduction in the volume of paid services provided to the population.

***Socioeconomic Situation as of 31 July**

945E1248A Moscow DELOVOY MIR in Russian 4 Aug 95 p 4

[Unattributed report on the Russian Federation economic statistics, based on materials from the Russian State Committee for Statistics: "Socioeconomic Situation as of 31 July"]

[Text]

Prices for Consumer Goods and Services

The consumer price index in July measured 105.4 percent, including that for foodstuffs—104.5 percent, nonfood items—105.3 percent, and for-fee services for the population—109.7 percent.

The greatest increase in prices for consumer goods and services over the month was registered in the cities of the Northern region (by 6.6 percent) and the smallest—in the North Caucasus region (by 2.9 percent).

Over the period of 25 to 31 July, the consumer price index measured 100.9 percent, including that for foodstuffs—101.0 percent, nonfood items—100.9 percent, and for-fee services for the population—100.4 percent.

The consumer price index is shown below (in percents):

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	Of the preceding registration date			Average daily price rise	
	07/17	07/24	07/31	July	June
The consumer price index	101.1	101.4	100.9	0.17	0.21
including:					
foodstuffs	101.0	100.9	101.0	0.14	0.24
nonfood items	101.2	101.3	100.9	0.17	0.15
for-fee services for the population	101.6	102.6	100.4	0.30	0.28

Over seven months of this year, the consumer price index measured 187 percent, including that for foodstuffs—190 percent, nonfood items—170 percent, and for-fee services for the population—241 percent.

Foodstuffs.

Prices for foodstuffs rose in July at the slowest rate since the beginning of the year.

The price dynamics of main categories of food products over the past three weeks are shown below:

	As a percentage of the preceding registration date		
	07/17	07/24	07/31
All food products	101.0	100.9	101.0
including:			
meat and meat products	101.0	101.3	101.6
fish and fish products	100.6	101.0	101.4
edible fats	100.1	100.3	100.4
including:			
vegetable oil	101.7	101.8	102.0
milk and milk products	100.2	100.7	101.2
eggs	100.9	100.8	101.6
sugar	103.6	103.8	103.0
bread and bakery products	102.3	102.2	102.8
cereals and macaroni items	101.8	101.8	102.2
alcoholic beverages	101.4	101.1	101.3
fresh produce, including potatoes	99.4	97.9	96.8

The greatest price increase in July was registered with respect to flour and sugar (17-18 percent), as well as bread and bakery items (11 percent). There was a seasonal increase in potato prices by 24 percent. Prices for meat and fish and products made of them, eggs, and alcoholic beverages went up by 4-6 percent; milk and milk products, butter, and fats, by 1-2 percent; and vegetable prices declined by 13 percent.

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The cost of the consumer basket of 19 basic foodstuffs increased over July on average across Russia by 7.8 percent and amounted to 211,200 rubles [R]. The basket cost remained the highest in the cities of the Far East, and the lowest in the cities of the Volga and Central Chernozem regions. The price differential between the highest and the lowest cost of the basket in the cities across Russia measured a factor of 3.0 as compared to a factor of 4.8 in December of last year. Over the month, the cost of the basket increased the most in Ulyanovsk (by 25 percent), Smolensk, and Yekaterinburg (by 17 percent). In Cherkessk and Stavropol the cost of the basket declined by 8 percent.

Nonfood Items

Prices for nonfood items rose in July at a somewhat higher rate than those for foodstuffs.

The price dynamics of main categories of nonfood items over the past three weeks are shown below:

	As a percentage of the preceding registration date		
	07/17	07/24	07/31
All nonfood items	101.2	101.8	100.9
including:			
fabrics	101.8	102.3	101.6
clothing and underwear	100.8	101.7	100.7
footwear	101.5	102.4	100.9
detergents	101.4	101.7	100.9
tobacco items	102.2	103.2	101.9
electrical goods	101.0	101.7	100.8
medicines and medical supplies	101.6	102.0	101.1
gasoline	102.1	100.5	100.6

The greatest price increases over July of this year were registered with respect to paper and stationery (14 percent); tobacco items, fuel sold to the population (9-10 percent); fabrics, bed linens, thread, printed matter, and construction materials (by 7-8 percent). Prices for footwear, detergents, medicines and medical supplies, and electrical goods went up by 5-6 percent, and for clothing, knitwear, furniture, television sets and radios, and jewelry, by 3-4 percent.

For-Fee Consumer Services for the Population

Tariffs for for-fee consumer services continued to rise at an anticipatory rate in July as compared to prices for consumer goods.

	As a percentage of the preceding registration date		
	07/17	07/24	07/31
All for-fee services to the population	101.4	102.6	100.4
including:			
household services	100.7	101.4	100.4
passenger transportation	100.9	104.7	100.0

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	As a percentage of the preceding registration date		
communications services	100.9	101.4	100.3
housing and municipal services	102.3	102.2	100.9
attendance at preschool care facilities	100.9	101.2	100.1
stay at sanitarium, resort, and preventive health maintenance facilities	100.8	101.6	100.3
health care services	101.1	101.5	100.2

Over July of this year, the greatest increases occurred with respect to the cost of urban transportation and municipal services (by 16 percent). The cost of stay in sanitariums and resorts went up by 13 percent, and that of communications services, by 10 percent. The cost of household services, health care, and services of preschool child care facilities went up by 3-4 percent.

List of Russian cities with the highest and lowest cost of the basket of 19 basic foodstuffs* (as of 31 July)

	Cost of the basket of 19 basic foodstuffs, calculated on a monthly basis, in rubles	Change in the cost of the basket from 25 to 31 July, in percents
Cities with the highest basket cost		
Yakutsk	411,950	103
Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy	374,157	100
Magadan	365,245	101
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk	357,189	98
Vladivostok	349,838	100
Khabarovsk	297,537	100
Irkutsk	284,335	99
Chita	280,380	102
Murmansk	275,992	103
Moscow	265,801	98
Cities with the lowest basket cost		
Rostov-on-Don	167,911	99
Ryazan	167,693	100
Voronezh	167,318	100
Kazan	166,421	98
Orel	163,362	100
Maykop	161,837	100
Kursk	159,125	97
Saransk	157,938	98
Tambov	144,052	99
Ulyanovsk	139,642	103

*Capitals of Russian Federation components republics, oblast and kray centers

The cost of the basket of 19 basic foodstuffs in St. Petersburg amounted to R215,246 (98 percent).

Progress of Harvesting Campaign

By the end of July grain crops in Russia has been harvested from one-third of the area sown. In the North Caucasus, almost 90 percent of the area sown with grain crops has been harvested, in the Republic of Kalmykia 80 percent, and in Belgorod, Voronezh, Volgograd, Samara, and Ulyanovsk oblasts and Tatarstan, more than half. Last week farms on 27 territories began harvesting, mainly in the Non-Chernozem belt.

It is estimated that as of 31 July of 1995 24.6 million tonnes of grain have been threshed at agricultural enterprises and private farms.

The progress of the harvesting campaign at Russia's agricultural enterprises is characterized by the following data:

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	1992	1993	1994	1995
Grain crops harvested (excluding corn), million hectares	13.6	8.1	6.8	16.4
as a percentage of the area sown	24	15	14	33
Area threshed:				
million hectares	11.2	6.4	6.0	15.0
as a percentage of the area sown	20	12	12	31
as a percentage of the area harvested	82	80	88	92
Grain threshed (in initial book weight):				
total, million tonnes	28.2	19.9	15.0	23.5
quintals per hectare	25.2	30.9	24.9	15.6

The average yield of grain per hectare is lower than last year's in practically all regions. The yield per hectare in Krasnodar Kray amounted to 32.8 quintals as compared to 35.3 quintals last year; in Rostov Oblast, 18.0 and 24.8 quintals, respectively; Belgorod Oblast, 13.5 and 27.5 quintals; Kursk Oblast, 18.3 and 25.5 quintals; Voronezh Oblast, 13.5 and 18.3 quintals; and Samara Oblast, 12.1 and 20.2 quintals.

Workers' Average Wage in Economic Sectors

The average gross wage earned by workers in June 1995 amounted to R480,600; as compared to May 1995 it increased by 12 percent, and as compared to June of last year, by 131 percent. Social allowances paid out in June amounted to R61,400 and increased as compared to May by 23 percent, and as compared to June of last year, by 174 percent. The average wage, including social allowances and adjustments for the consumer index, amounted in June to 72 percent of the June 1994 level and 106 of May 1995 level (without counting social allowances, 71 and 105 percent, respectively).

Below are the data on average monthly wages in the first half of 1995.

	Average monthly wages (without social allowances)				Social allowances per one worker in the first half of 1995 on average per month	
	thousand rubles		First half of 1995 as a percentage of first half of 1994	June 1995 as a percentage of May 1995	thousand rubles	as a percentage of first half of 1994
	first half-year	June				
Total	380.2	480.6	227	112	41.8	280
including in:						
industry	451.2	553.7	249	109	109	309
of that:						
power generation	794.4	940.9	215	106	96.0	251
fuel industry	967.5	1,153.1	237	105	91.9	288

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	Average monthly wages (without social allowances)				Social allowances per one worker in the first half of 1995 on average per month	
including:						
oil production	1,108.3	1,320.1	242	105	72.0	202
oil refining	820.4	1,014.3	255	107	240.6	299
gas (production and processing of natural and associated petroleum gas)	1,494.2	1,780.2	225	101	299.1	396
coal	849.7	997.8	227	103	46.4	329
ferrous metallurgy	487.7	599.6	243	108	123.8	321
nonferrous metallurgy	832.7	1,033.9	279	108	104.0	277
chemical and petrochemical industry	405.2	490.1	262	106	93.1	359
machine building and metalworking	326.0	391.0	254	110	35.4	297
timber, woodworking, and pulp and paper industry	393.6	484.2	266	113	42.7	378
construction materials industry	405.3	515.5	234	113	62.2	293
glass and porcelain-stoneware industry	304.1	356.7	259	105	43.1	385
light industry	207.0	261.2	210	120	41.9	293
food processing industry	477.6	628.3	231	114	91.5	297
including fishing industry	922.5	1,354.4	279	118	42.6	304
microbiological industry	351.9	409.6	206	94	29.7	199
milling and cereal-making; feed concentrates industry	507.5	606.8	231	112	109.4	281
printing industry	396.4	489.8	231	115	84.0	329
agriculture	160.5	222.4	217	117	14.5	251
construction	507.8	678.1	227	119	79.2	296
transportation	604.8	745.0	231	108	41.8	288

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	Average monthly wages (without social allowances)				Social allowances per one worker in the first half of 1995 on average per month	
housing and municipal services; nonproduction consumer services	407.5	504.4	221	110	56.5	274
health care, sports, and social security	259.6	336.6	189	113	18.9	269
education	238.9	314.0	182	111	19.1	226
culture and arts	221.8	279.3	195	109	45.8	297
science and science services	285.6	355.1	226	112	31.1	347
credit, finance, and insurance	669.4	714.3	189	111	235.8	191
including insurance	416.7	526.5	194	110	124.2	251
administrative organs staff	411.3	539.3	184	113	107.1	278

The average wage in Russia as a whole, taking into account social allowances, in June 1995 provided for 1.7 times the value of sustenance minimum as compared to 2.4 in June 1994.

Of the total amount of gross wages authorized for consumption in June, 16.9 percent were not paid out within the period mandated by law, including 37.5 percent in agriculture; 32.4 percent, geology, land surveying, and meteorological services; 23.5 percent, construction; 21.5 percent, industry; 9.3 percent, education; and 8.2 percent, health care. In addition, 7,100 enterprises with 714,300 employees (1.4 percent of the total labor force of large-and medium-size enterprises) did not authorize any wages whatsoever because of the lack of funds.

The Standard of Living and the Population's Income

During the January-June period of this year, monetary income of the population amounted to R374 trillion and increased as compared to the corresponding period of last year by 198 percent.

The disposable income (income less compulsory payments) over this period amounted to R348 trillion and, adjusted for the change in consumer prices for goods in services, declined by 7 percent as compared to January-June 1994.

The dynamics of real disposable income by month in the first half of this year are characterized by the following data:

	as a percentage of	
	preceding month	corresponding month in 1994
January	67	104
February	102	94
March	109	93
April	100.4	88
May	101	97
June	104	90

In the total volume of the population's monetary income in the first half of this year, wages comprised R145 trillion; pensions, allowances, stipends, and other social transfers, R61 trillion; and the population's income from entrepreneurial activities, dividends on deposits and securities, and other income, R168 trillion.

The share of labor remuneration in the structure of population's monetary income continued to decline:

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	First half of 1994	First half of 1995
Total monetary income	100.0	100.0
of this:		
labor remuneration	51.8	38.8
social transfers	16.6	16.3
income from entrepreneurial activities, property, and other income	31.6	44.9

Monetary income. Of the total volume of monetary income during January-June of this year, the population spent R259 trillion (69.2 percent) on purchases of goods and services, R26 trillion (6.9 percent) on taxes and dues, R23 trillion (6.3 percent) on savings in deposits and securities, and R52 trillion (14 percent) on purchase of foreign currency. Cash on hand increased over this period by R14 trillion.

In the structure of the population's spending over the first half of this year, there was a trend toward a decline in the share of population's consumer spending, accompanied by an increase in the percentage share saved. The share of the population's money used in all forms of savings (deposits, securities, foreign currency, cash) increased from 18.9 percent in January of this year to 25.6 percent in June of this year. At the same time, in the second quarter of this year, as compared to the first quarter of this year, the proportional share of population's expenditures on purchases of foreign currency declined perceptibly, while the share of funds in deposits and especially in cash increased.

The structure of spending in the population's monetary income in January-June of this year is represented in the following table:

	As a percentage of the total					
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Monetary income	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
of that, used for:						
purchases of goods and services	73.8	68.8	68.5	67.4	70.8	67.5
compulsory payments and dues	7.3	7.3	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.9
savings in the form of deposits and securities	5.9	5.4	5.2	6.2	7.0	7.1
purchases of foreign currency	24.9	14.6	17.6	12.4	9.7	9.9
Increase (+) or drop (-) in cash on hand	-11.9	3.9	2.0	7.3	5.7	8.6

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Income stratification. The distribution of the Russian Federation population by amount of per capita average income in January-June 1995 was as follows:

	Million persons	As a percentage of the total
All population	148.2	100
including those with the average monthly per capita income, in R thousands:		
up to 20.0	0.0	0.0
20.1-40.0	0.2	0.1
40.1-100.0	6.6	4.5
100.1-150.0	12.9	8.7
150.1-200.0	15.9	10.7
200.1-250.1	16.1	10.8
250.1-300.0	14.7	9.9
300.1-350.0	12.9	8.8
350.1-400.0	11.0	7.4
400.1-450.0	9.2	6.2
450.1-500.0	7.7	5.2
500.1-600.0	11.8	7.9
600.1-700.0	8.2	5.6
700.1-800.0	5.7	3.9
800.1-900.0	4.0	2.7
900.1-1,000.0	2.9	2.0
over 1,000	8.4	5.6

The top 10 percent of the population with the highest income in January-June of this year accounted for 28 of the total aggregate monetary income, and the bottom 10 percent, 2.3 percent. Almost 64 percent of the population had incomes below the average.

The trend in the redistribution of the total aggregate monetary income in January-June of this year continued to remain in favor of high-income groups, which was reflected in the increase in higher income differentiation and income concentration coefficients.

	Distribution of the population's total income, in percents	
	January-June	
	1995	1994
Monetary income	100	100
including population groups (in 20-percent segments):		
first (with the lowest income)	5.4	5.9
second	10.1	11.0
third	15.1	15.8
fourth	22.3	23.0
fifth (the highest income)	47.1	44.3
income concentration coefficient (the Gini index)	0.382	0.380
Income ratio between top and bottom 10 percent of the income range, times	13.4	13.0

Over January-June of this year, the per capita monetary income in the top 20-percent income group (on average per month) amounted to R997,000, while for the bottom 20-percent income group it did not exceed R133,000.

The subsistence minimum. The value of the subsistence minimum, determined in keeping with the methodology of the Russian Ministry of Labor, amounted in June of this year to R277,400 and increased as compared to May 1995 by 9 percent.

Changes in the subsistence minimum value are shown in the following table:

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	All population	Including:			For reference:
		work-able population	pensioners	children	the ratio between the average per capita monetary income and the subsistence minimum, in percents
1995					
January	179.5	202	126.5	181	173
February	201	227	142	203	173
March	219	246	154	221	187
April	234	263.5	165	238.5	191
May	254	286	179	259	192
June	277	312	196	282	195
January-June (on average per month)	228	256	160	231	186

In January-June of this year, the ratio of monetary income to the subsistence minimum remained considerably below last year's level (186 percent as compared to 259 percent in January-June 1994). The average per capita monetary income of 30 percent of the population (44.5 million persons) in January-June of this year was below the subsistence level.

The poverty level dynamics are shown below:

	Population with monetary income below the subsistence level	
	million persons	as a percentage of total population
First quarter of 1994	37.5	25
Second quarter of 1994	37.2	25
First quarter of 1995	45.1	30
January	49.4	33
February	50.4	34
March	43.9	30
Second quarter of 1995	42.2	28

	Population with monetary income below the subsistence level	
April	43.1	29
May	42.2	28
June	41.5	28

As compared to the corresponding period of last year, the number of persons with the income below the subsistence level increased in January-June of this year by approximately 18 percent.

The **income deficit,** estimated as the amount of additional money needed to bring the income of low-income groups of the population to the subsistence level, amounted in the January-June period to R20.1 trillion, or 5.4 percent in relation to the amount of the total monetary income (in January-June 1994—R4.7 trillion and 3.7 percent, respectively).

It is estimated that **the average wage** in June 1995 amounted to R495,000 and increased as compared to May of this year by 15 percent, and to June of last year, by 139 percent.

The average gross wage earned by workers in May 1995 amounted to R429,900; as compared to April 1995 it increased by 11 percent, and as compared to May of last year, increased by 134 percent. Social allowances paid out in May amounted to R49,900 and increased as compared to April by 10 percent, and as compared

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to May of last year, by 183 percent. The average wage, including social allowances and adjusted for the consumer index, amounted in May 1995 to 74 percent of the May 1994 level and 102 percent of the April 1995 level (without counting social allowances—respectively, 73 and 103 percent).

Below are the data on average monthly wages in January 1995.

	Average monthly wages				Social allowances per one worker in January-May 1995 on average per month, thousand rubles
	thousand rubles		January-May 1995 as a percentage of January-May 1994	May 1995 as a percentage of April 1995	
	January-May	May			
Total	359.7	429.9	226	111	38.0
including in:					
industry	431.0	506.3	249	109	57.6
of that:					
power generation	765.8	896.9	214	110	84.8
fuel industry	933.5	1,103.0	236	109	80.7
including:					
oil production	1,072.2	1,254.0	242	110	62.6
oil refining	780.4	949.7	256	113	213.2
gas (production and processing of natural and associated petroleum gas)	1,486.1	1,756.1	219	101	256.0
coal	819.4	968.4	225	108	43.1
ferrous metallurgy	464.1	554.0	240	110	113.0
nonferrous metallurgy	789.7	961.2	279	110	95.0
chemical and petrochemical industry	388.0	464.2	261	110	85.9
machine building and metalworking	313.5	356.6	255	105	33.1
timber, woodworking, and pulp and paper industry	375.4	426.8	265	106	38.4
construction materials industry	382.9	456.6	234	110	54.7
glass and porcelain-stoneware industry	294.9	340.4	257	107	40.1
light industry	196.9	218.3	207	108	38.7

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	Average monthly wages				
food processing industry	447.8	552.7	234	115	84.1
including fishing industry	838.1	1,146.0	297	120	39.4
microbiological industry	340.6	435.2	202	122	27.7
milling and cereal-making; feed concentrates industry	489.0	540.5	233	110	105.3
printing industry	377.7	427.1	234	104	78.9
agriculture	148.1	189.6	215	119	13.3
construction	469.7	569.2	226	112	69.9
transportation	576.7	690.0	229	114	36.7
housing and municipal services; nonproduction consumer services	387.8	458.2	219	111	50.0
health care, sports, and social security	243.0	297.4	185	109	15.3
education	223.8	282.6	181	114	16.8
culture and arts	210.1	255.2	193	110	36.1
science and science services	271.8	316.8	229	106	26.4
credit, finance, and insurance	660.2	642.6	190	100	215.9
administrative organs staff	385.5	475.5	183	110	94.4

The distribution of workers at enterprises and organizations by earned wages in May 1995 looked as follows:

	As a percentage of the total workers
All workers	100
including those with earned wages, thousand rubles:	
less than 50.0	2.9
50.1-100.0	7.4
100.1-150.0	8.9
150.1-200.0	9.1
200.1-300.0	15.9
300.1-400.0	12.9
400.1-600.0	17.3
600.1-800.0	10.1
800.1-1,000.0	5.7
1,000.1-1,400.0	5.1
1,400.1-1,800.0	2.2
1,800.1-2,200.0	1.0
2,200.1-2,600.0	0.6
2,600.1-3,000.0	0.3
3,000.1-3,400.0	0.2
3,400.1-4,200.0	0.2

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	As a percentage of the total workers
4,200.1-5,000.0	0.1
more than 5,000.0	0.1

The top 10 percent of the workers with the highest earnings accounted for one-third of total aggregate funds directed into labor remuneration.

As a result of the anticipatory rise in prices for basic necessities, the proportional share of workers earning less than the sustenance level for the work-able population increased by 14 points as compared to May 1994 and measured about 42 percent. In agriculture, eight in 10 workers had incomes below the sustenance level, and in the light industry, health care, education, culture, and arts—six to seven people.

Of the total amount of gross wages authorized for consumption in May, 18 percent were not paid out within the period mandated by law, including in agriculture—37 percent; geology, land surveying, and meteorological services—36 percent; construction—27 percent; industry—26 percent; education—11 percent; and health care—8 percent. In addition, 8,000 enterprises with 960,000 employees (1.9 percent of the total labor force of large- and medium-size enterprises) did not authorize any wages whatsoever because of the lack of funds. In construction, agriculture, and geology, land surveying, and meteorological services the proportional share of workers at such enterprises comprised 3.6-4.8 percent.

Pensions. As of the end of June of this year, the average formally set monthly pension (taking into account compensatory allowances) was estimated to be R200,000, which comprises 102 percent of a pensioner's sustenance minimum.

The ratio between the average pension (taking into account compensatory allowances), workers' wages, and the value of a pensioner's sustenance minimum was characterized by the following data:

	Average pension, thousand rubles	Average pension as a percentage of the	
		average wage	value of pensioner's sustenance minimum
As of:			
1 January 1995	118.1	33	115
1 April 1995	138.5	38	90
1 July 1995 (estimate)	200.0	40	102

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